

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

28. (Twice Amended) A copolymer comprising units obtained from two or more free radically (co)polymerizable monomers, wherein the copolymer is a statistical, periodic, or sequential copolymer and exhibits a molecular weight distribution of less than 2.0 and thermally stable functionality on predominantly each of the polymer chain ends.

REMARKS

The subject application includes claims 1-14, 21-36, 38, 39, 43-64 and 66-80 pending, of these claims 1-14, 46-54, 60 and 61 have been withdrawn from consideration at this time. The Examiner has indicated in the Office Action that claims 21-27, 29-36, 38, 39, 43-45, 55-59, 62-64 and 66-80 are in condition for allowance. Only claim 28 stands rejected based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 5,610,250 issued to Veregin et al ("Veregin"). Applicants herein amend claim 28 to include the limitation that the copolymer comprises "thermally stable functionality on predominantly each of the polymer chain ends." This amendment clearly distinguishes claim 28 from Veregin based on the arguments presented in the Amendment and Response to Office Action submitted on May 29, 2001 (Paper No. 27) and entered by the filing of the Request for Continued Examination on July 25, 2001. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.